

Breakthrough in hunt for HIV vaccine

AFP, Washington

US scientists seeking to unravel the mysteries of HIV have made an important breakthrough after capturing the clearest image yet of a protein which allows the deadly virus to attack human immune cells, new research showed Tuesday.

Scientists at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) and Weill Cornell Medical College have managed to obtain a detailed view of the atomic structure of the protein which envelops HIV, the virus which causes AIDS.

The development could potentially pave the way for a vaccine, according to the findings published in the US journal Science.

"In order to develop a vaccine, you have to understand what bits on that very important trimeric protein can be recognizes by broadly neutralizing antibodies," said Scripps Institute cell biologist Bridget Carragher.

"And in order to understand that, you need to understand what the structure of the thing looks like.

US spying went too far

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Angela Merkel angrily confronted President Barack Obama with allegations that the NSA was snooping on her phone, saying it would amount to a "breach of trust."

A German intelligence delegation and a separate group of EU lawmakers were in the US capital Wednesday to confront their American allies about the alleged bugging.

Kerry's remarks -- released in a State Department transcript -- came in response to a question addressed to both him and British Foreign Secretary William Hague about government surveillance.

Kerry also lashed out at some of the reporting about alleged spying, sparked by leaks from fugitive former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, wanted by Washington on espionage charges.

"Just the other day... there was news in the papers of 70 million people being listened to. No, they weren't. It didn't happen," Kerry said.

"There's an enormous amount of exaggeration in this reporting from some reporters out there."

US intelligence chiefs have said these reports are based on a misinterpretation of an NSA slide leaked to the media by Snowden.

Rather than siphoning off the records of tens

"Then once you do, you can start designing a vaccine that will mimic that thing and elicit an antibody response and get the human being to fight the real virus when it comes along."

Although sophisticated antiviral drugs have been used to manage HIV infections in many developed countries, a vaccine against infection has proved elusive.

The failure to find a vaccine is often attributed to the complex nature of HIV's envelope protein, known as Env.

The delicate structure of Env has hampered efforts to obtain the protein in a form that allows for the atomic-resolution imaging necessary to fully understand it.

"It tends to fall apart, for example, even when it's on the surface of the virus, so to study it we have to engineer it to be more stable," said TSRI biologist Andrew Ward.

However the researchers were able to engineer a version of the Env trimer, or three-component structure, that has the stability required for atomic-resolution imaging.

of millions of calls in Europe, as the slide seems to suggest, they argue that the data was in many cases gathered and shared by European agencies.

Still, fresh US spy allegations keep cropping around the world on a near daily basis.

Indonesia summoned the Australian ambassador in Jakarta Friday over a "totally unacceptable" report that his embassy was among diplomatic posts in Asia being used in a vast American surveillance operation.

The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper, amplifying an earlier report by the German magazine Der Spiegel, said earlier this week that a top-secret map leaked by Snowden showed 90 US surveillance facilities at diplomatic missions worldwide.

The paper also reported that Australian embassies in Asia were being used as part of the US-led spying network.

On Wednesday, meanwhile, a report in the Washington Post alleged that NSA technicians had tapped into Yahoo and Google data centers around the world, winning access to vast amounts of private data.

The report said a program dubbed MUSCULAR, operated with the NSA's British counterpart GCHQ, can intercept data directly from the fiber-optic cables used by the US Internet giants.

PM again calls

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his party will take part in the next polls if it is held as per constitutional provisions.

"He [Manju] has assured us of joining the polls," AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star after the meeting.

The prime minister said, "We want to ensure political stability in the country permanently. For that, we want to hold the next election in a free, fair and credible manner under an all-party polls-time government comprised of elected representatives from different political parties."

The present government wants to start holding national elections as per constitutional provisions to make sure that no undemocratic government could take over, she added.

Also the president of Awami League, Hasina said there should be no confusion in anyone's mind that the general election will be held under an all-party polls-time government. And this is why she has invited opposition leaders to sit for dialogue, she pointed out.

Regarding her telephone conversation with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on October 26, the premier said she had to hear harsh words from the BNP chief, but did not respond.

Referring to Khaleda's claim that the present government became illegal after October 27, Hasina said parliament is valid until its tenure ends on January 24 next year, while the head of the government will remain in office until the successor takes over.

Leading a 12-member party delegation at the meeting, Anwar Hossain Manju said the general election is mandatory for continuation of democracy and constitutional process in the country.

Senior AL leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and Matia Chowdhury were present, among others.

The meeting was organised as part of the prime minister's initiative to form an all-party polls-time government. Earlier, Hasina had talked to the leaders of HM Ershad's Jatiya Party and the AL-led 14-party combine.

On October 26, the premier invited opposition leader Khaleda Zia to Gono Bhavan to sit for a dialogue the following day, but the latter requested the prime minister to fix a date after October 29 for talks.

Man killed

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officer-in-charge of Wari Police Station.

This went on for about a year, said Nepal's father Gopal Das.

Rajib too was an employee at the shop where Nepal worked, but he was fired following incidents of harassment of the girl.

The girl's father said Nepal had lodged a general diary against Rajib. "In response, Rajib threatened me over the phone a couple of times."

The Daily Star has withheld the names of the girl and her father to protect the girl's privacy.

Volatile politics boon

FROM PAGE 1

the-shelf materials, which are cheap since they are heavily used in the agricultural, industrial and cottage industry sectors. Yet, the price of their product is high since bomb making is risky and there is a long jail term if one gets caught.

Sanwar said during their drive last week police recovered 250 live cocktails and materials for making 400 more.

Explosions of a few hundred crude bombs inside a flat rocked a six-storied building in Fakirerpool on October 9. Investigators in the wrecked flat found 1.5kg of gunpowder and plenty of pebbles and bits of metals apparently meant to be used as shrapnel.

They also found several hundred empty cans stored for making bombs. It was obvious that the flat was actually a bomb factory.

Police believe that similar factories are still operating in Dhaka and the law enforcers are looking for them.

Among the people police arrested during the hartal, they found a group who carry out bomb attacks for money.

Sanwar said they were mostly teenagers,

street urchins, drug addicts and thugs. During primary interrogation, they admitted carrying out bomb attacks for as little as Tk 200.

On Sunday, the first day of the hartal, a 16-year-old boy sustained serious injuries to his hand and abdomen after a crude bomb burst in his hand at Kakrail. He had initially claimed that someone gave him the bomb saying it was a can of food and he got hurt trying to open it.

He later told reporters that he was attempting to bomb a target in exchange for Tk 200.

Many political parties rely heavily on commercially manufactured bombs and hired hands for attacks while only a few make their own explosives, police sources said.

During the 18-party alliance sponsored hartal, some bombs exploded in front of the residences of the chief election commissioner, ministers, a Supreme Court judge, war crimes tribunal prosecutors, law enforcers, police stations and some media houses.

Criminals generally use crude bombs during running battles and to create panic, but last week several attacks were made apparently to unnerve people in high office.

Aid worker killed in Sudan's Darfur: UN

AFP, Khartoum

Carjackers killed a Sudanese aid worker in the country's Darfur region, the UN said, bringing to four the number of humanitarian staff killed this year in the region's worsening unrest.

The attack happened on October 23 about 15 kilometres (nine miles) southwest of Nyala, Sudan's second largest city, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in its latest weekly bulletin, issued late on Thursday.

It said the head of the Sudanese Al-Sugia Charity Organisation, a non-governmental group, was killed by unidentified gunmen.

"Another staff member of Al-Sugia on board the NGO vehicle and a police officer were injured when the gunmen ambushed and hijacked the vehicle," OCHA said.

In July two local staff members of the international aid group World Vision died when Nyala became an urban battleground during fighting which officials blamed on "differences" between members of the security forces.

Bangladesh better place

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Plaza collapse in April, which killed more than 1,100 people.

In Bangladesh, people "not only live 3.4 years longer than their Indian counterparts, but fewer are undernourished, a lower number die in infancy and more have access to sanitation."

In the eight categories used to measure prosperity, India is ahead of Bangladesh in health, safety and security, and personal freedom. In categories such as education and governance, Bangladesh is ahead.

Bangladesh also fared better than Cambodia and Pakistan in the study.

Norway topped the rankings, a position it has locked down since 2009, followed by Switzerland and Canada.

Canada had the survey's top score for personal freedom and was third in education, behind New Zealand and Australia. Canada's lowest score was for entrepreneurship and opportunity, where it came in 16th.

The study was released by the UK-based Legatum Institute and reported by journalist Heather Timmons on the website Quartz.

Test at govt lab too detects lead

FROM PAGE 1

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found as high as 53 ppm of lead in the turmeric powder that Pran exported to the US.

The FDA warned consumers that they should avoid the product on health grounds.

"Lead can accumulate in the body over time. Too much [of it] can cause health problems, including delayed mental and physical development and learning deficiencies. Pregnant women, infants and young children especially should avoid exposure to lead," the FDA said last month.

Following the FDA detection, four stores in New York, Dallas and Detroit recalled the turmeric powder.

Pran, however, chose to turn a blind eye to the detection. It repeatedly insisted its turmeric powder on the domestic market did not contain excessive lead and maintained it would not recall the product.

The BCSIR collected samples of the powder from four markets in Dhaka and Savar. It carried

out tests in two methods -- testing the samples separately, and mixing it with those collected from different markets.

The tests show the powder contains 40 ppm to 55 ppm of lead, sources said.

Another test by the BCSIR shows similar results. Retail superstore chain Shwapno initiated the test in the wake of the FDA warning and the recall in the US market.

Tests of two samples of Pran's 200 gram and 500 gram turmeric powder packs show the spice contains 57 ppm lead. One sample of a 250 gram pack contained 43 ppm lead, according to the sources.

Sabbir Hasan Nasir, executive director of Shwapno, said: "We are returning Pran's turmeric after the test results. We are also considering testing spices of other brands. We will not sell anything risky to human health."

Experts say lead can enter the product at any stage from cultivation to processing, but the use of colouring ingredients may be a major factor.

Contacted, Pran Director (marketing)

Kamruzzaman Kamal said he was unaware of the BCSIR tests.

"We will stop processing and marketing the spice if such a high level of lead is found," he told this newspaper yesterday, adding that his company would recall the product if the test reports showed high level of lead.

He, however, could not say when the recall would start.

Asked why the level of lead in samples collected from the market was higher than in those provided by Pran to the BSTI and BCSIR for tests, he said it was not clear to him.

"We do not mix anything in the turmeric powder," he claimed.

One industry insider told The Daily Star earlier that in some cases companies provide "special samples" to the BSTI for tests. These samples are "specially made".

Kamruzzaman also claimed that Pran was recalling from the local market the product of the batches in which the FDA found excessive lead.

Opposition may announce fresh agitation today

FROM PAGE 1

Khaleda in the chair.

The chief of a component in the 18-party combine told The Daily Star that the BNP did not tell them why the meeting date was changed.

They only know that Khaleda Zia was taking time to finalise a fresh agitation, considering the Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations starting on Monday, the October-November session of the O- and A-level exams and the BDR mutiny verdict due on Tuesday.

Some BNP leaders told The Daily Star that they did not hold the meeting at the BNP headquarters yesterday fearing some "miscreants" might

create anarchy there and police might take action against the party leaders.

Gulshan office is safer than Nayapaltan, they added.

"Getting nod from Khaleda Zia, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at the meet may inform the secretaries general of allies about the next programme," said a leader of the alliance.

On October 29, the BNP standing committee, the highest policy-making body of the main opposition party, decided to call a three-day blockade of roads and rail and waterways for Monday next.

But, the next day, the alliance chiefs in a meet-

ing urged Khaleda Zia not to enforce the blockade as it coincided with the exams.

They suggested hartal for this week keeping the examinations out of the purview.

Bangladesh Islamic Party Chairman Abdul Mobin told The Daily Star yesterday that they had already given the BNP chief the authority to finalise the fresh agitation.

Around 4:30pm yesterday, the *gayebana janaza* was held in front of the BNP office in the presence of senior alliance leaders, including the BNP acting secretary general, among others.


The alliance will hold protest rallies in all upazilas today demanding the release of its leaders and activists arrested during the last hartal.

Azerbaijan probes independent election monitor

AFP, Baku

Azerbaijani prosecutors have opened a criminal probe into an election monitoring group that criticised last month's presidential poll that saw strongman Ilham Aliyev win a crushing victory, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office said yesterday.

"The grave crimes department of the general prosecutor's office has started an investigation into legal violations committed at the Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS)," spokesman Eldar Sultanov said, without giving further details.



Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd
E-Mail: info@dgdp.gov.bd

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturer(s)/supplier(s) (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following item for Bangladesh Army use:

S/No.	Name of item & Qty	Schedule selling date		Tender opening date	Tender No.	Remarks
		From	To			
a.	Digital Copy Printer (Duplo Digital Machine) (Qty-02 No.)	11-11-13	10-12-13	11-12-13	223.07.014.13	

4. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (non-refundable) during office time between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

Dated: 23 October 2013
ISPR/Misc/2013/3734
GD-4029

Major
For Director General

Mongla Export Processing Zone

Mongla, Bagerhat

No: 03.371.007.01.00.455.2010.1288

Date: 21/10/2013

Invitation for Re-Tender (1st Call)

No. 05/2013-2014

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible contractors for the following works as per terms & conditions stated below:

1	Ministry/Division	Prime Minister's Office.			
2	Agency	Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA).			
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer (Civil), Mongla EPZ.			
4	Procuring entity district	Bagerhat.			
5	Invitation for	Works.			
6	Invitation Ref. No. and date	03.371.007.01.00.455.2010.1288 Date: 21/10/2013			
KEY INFORMATION					
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
8	Budget and source of funds	Self Finance of BEPZA.			
9	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
10	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
11	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.			
12	Tender package No.	Not applicable.			
13	Tender package name	Not applicable.			
14	Tender publication date	On or before October 31, 2013.			
15	Tender last selling date	November 18, 2013 during office hour.			
16	Tender submission date and time	November 19, 2013 at 12:00 noon.			
17	Tender opening date and time	November 19, 2013 at 3:00pm.			
18	Name & address of the office(s)				
	Selling of tender document (principal)	Accounts Section, Mongla EPZ, Mongla, Bagerhat.			
	Selling of tender document (others)	Office of Deputy Commissioner, Bagerhat.			
	Receiving of tender document	i) Executive Engineer (Civil), Mongla EPZ, Bagerhat. ii) Office of Deputy Commissioner, Bagerhat.			
	Opening of tender document	Executive Engineer (Civil), Mongla EPZ, Bagerhat.			
19	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not applicable.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
20	Eligibility of tenderer	The invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderers who satisfy the following: (a) The tenderer must have successful completion experience of at least 01 (one) building construction work including sanitary, water supply, electrical works for a single work amounting not less than Tk. 131.00 lakh during last 5 (five) years in govt./semi-govt./autonomous bodies. The work completion certificates shall have to be issued by the officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent officer of concern department/organization. (b) In case of JVC/JVCA eligibility and other conditions are shown in Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of tender documents. (c) The required minimum average annual construction turnover is Tk. 314.00 Lakh. Which will be based on work completion certificates. (d) The required minimum liquid asset is Tk. 131.00 lakh. (e) Black-listed/debarred bidders from any govt./semi-govt./autonomous organization will be treated as ineligible to participate in the tender. (f) Up-to-date trade license, income tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate, valid A, B, C category electrical contractors and supervisory license from Electricity Licensing Board, Government of Bangladesh. (g) Other required conditions and documents of the tenderer are shown in Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of tender documents must be fulfilled. (h) All other criteria will be taken according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 and its amendment.			
21	Brief description of related works	Pile Work, RCC Work, MS Work, Brick Work, Aluminum windows, Tiles, Painting, Sanitary and Plumbing Works, Electrical Works etc.			
22	Price of tender documents	Tk. 2,500.00			
23	Sl. No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk) (In favour of BEPZA)	Completion time
	1	Construction of 02 storied officers dormitory with 06 (six) storied foundation at Mongla EPZ, Mongla, Bagerhat	Mongla EPZ, Bagerhat	Tk. 7,18,140.00	300 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
24	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abdul Matin Mies.			
25	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer (Civil).			
26	Address of official inviting tender	Mongla EPZ, Mongla, Bagerhat.			
27	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 04662-75195; Fax: 04662-75198			
28	Special instruction:				
	(a)	Eligible firms/authorized representative may purchase tender documents from the offices mentioned in SN-18 on submitting written request in their letterhead pad.			
	(b)	Any false, forged and misleading documents furnished by tenderer shall result in rejection of the tender.			
	(c)	In case of any confusion arises due to printing mistake or other reason, the Public Procurement Rules-2008 will govern.			
	(d)	Tender should be submitted original along with one duplicate copy and it should be mentioned on the cover sheet.			
	(e)	Tender shall be valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening the tender(s). The tender notice is also available at website: www.cptu.gov.bd of Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) and www.epzbanladesh.org.bd of BEPZA.			
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.				
GD-4052					
Md. Abdul Matin Mies Executive Engineer (Civil) Tel: 04662-75195					